

Vol. 4
No. 8

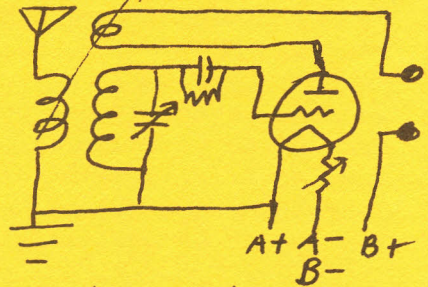


August
1978

CALL LETTER



Aug., 12th will be the meeting of the home brew crowd. Since in the twenties, home brew was in big demand during a spell of hot weather, so it is with us. Bring a specimen of your best home brew receiver to display at the "rap" session. Also don't forget the picnic lunch!



Typical Home Brew Circuit

From the Western Music & Radio Trades Journal, comes this bit of information on June, 1931. The caption reads as follows:

Radios in airplanes!
Northwest Airways, Inc., operating between Northwest key cities, have just finished installation of Philco-Transitone Automobile radios in each of their giant air-liners with great success, it is reported here. The loudspeaker is installed on the roof of the cabin and the control panel on the wall of the compartment partition. Good reception was reported to a height of two miles. Above this height, earphones may be used.

* * * * *

Do you remember when: "Ho-Hum", as performed by Ted Lewis, was all the rage among the record crowd? You do? Well you're older than I thought you were!

CALL LETTER

The Call Letter is a monthly publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Oregon. Meetings of the society are held on the second Saturday of each month, at the Buena Vista Club House, Sixteenth and Jackson Streets, Oregon City, Oregon.

Editor (pro tem) Tom James
Feature Contributions by Hugh and Virginia Ranken, Glenn Gonshorowski, Joe Tompkins and from time to time, several others.

Correspondence regarding contents of the Letter should be addressed to:

P.O. Box # 02379, Portland, Or. 97202
Phone inquiries to: 503-235-0581

OUR PEOPLE

by
H. Ranken

Our July meeting brought a fine turnout of lesser known radios. One attention getter was Bob Campbell's 1926 King-Buffalo, unrestored and found in a barn in Eastern Oregon. **Ed Charman brought a well kept Remler table model, styling somewhat along cathedral lines.**

Joe Tompkins came up with some "nifties" among which were a 1924 Globe Duo-Dyne and a Pye (English) from about 1930. Joe also had a component set, mounted on an upright peg board, which he had restored. This is a sort of stand up bread board arrangement - all parts are right out in the open.

Tom James brought a nicely restored Sonora table model with an interesting cabinet design.

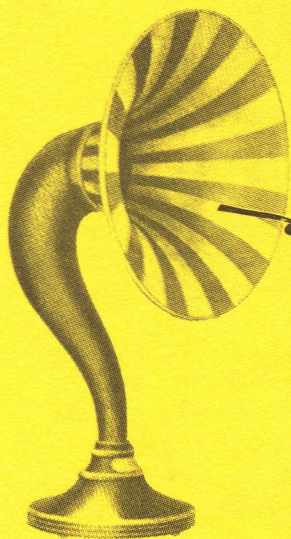
There were many others and our thanks to all who participated. These displays of various categories do much to promote interest in our hobby. Home brew radios are scheduled for the August meeting.

Joe Tompkins "Find-O'-The-Month", a 19 tube Sparton. Joe says, "this is an elegant set and runs great". Wow - 19 tubes - - that's a service man's dream or nightmare - either way you want to look at it.

Anyone with a machine shop? Tom Spence wants to contact someone with a metal lathe to turn 3 tuning pulleys for a Zenith Model 26, about 3½" diameter. If you can help Tom call him at 222-3971.

Only about a month left to get your contest entry ready for judging at the September meeting. This is an interesting project and we would like to see lots of participants.

Don't miss the PICNIC - at our August 12th meeting. Read all the details in the Power Supply column.



ATMOSPHERICA

By *tj*

That Radio Bug

Mr. Lyons was little known
In Riverside, 'til twenty.
Then his local fame was soon
To blossom out a-plenty.

He sent for wire and sundry parts
And a book on radio;
And from that truly humble start,
Escaped from the status quo.

He wasn't a valid engineer,
Nor the brightest star of men,
But he built sets by the dozens,
Then tore them down again.

He soon was known as "Mr. Sparks",
Among all the local clans,
And thus he sparked the D-X craze,
Igniting the countless fans.

I caught my fever listening
To his headphones long ago;
My happy introduction to
All the realms of radio.

From his corner in Kingdom Come,
I can sense his knowing smirk,
When our Sony sets here on Earth
Oftentimes refuse to work.

(A true character out of the past)
tj

POWER SUPPLY

by Virginia Ranken

DON'T FORGET THE PICNIC! The Northwest Vintage Radio Club is having its annual Pot Luck Picnic after the August meeting. The Ladies Aux. will furnish free coffee and punch. Paper plates and napkins will also be furnished. Bring your own silverware but if you forget, we have some plastic ones you can use. So come to the meeting everyone, bring your family, bring something for the picnic table (you bachelors could bring potato chips, pickles or olives) and we will have an eating and visiting good time!

* * * *

ABOUT AUNT SAMMY. We know there has been some grumbling in the ranks about recipes appearing in the Call Letter but Aunt Sammy was very much a part of early day radio. The character (the wife of Uncle Sam) was created by the USDA Bureau of Home Economics and the Radio Service and first came to life on Oct. 4, 1926 in a broadcast called "Housekeepers Chats". The program became popular and by 1932 194 stations across the country were broadcasting the show, a number of them 5 times a week. Aunt Sammy talked about food, gave household hints, clothing and appliance tips and even talked about world affairs. Many listeners wrote for recipes and were sent a mimeographed sheet. In 1927 the most popular recipes were put in pamphlet form. "Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes" were revised and enlarged 3 times between 1927 and 1931 and in 1932 became the first cookbook published in Braille. Aunt Sammy faded out during the depression and after 1934 the name was no longer used. The radio show was renamed "Homemaker Chats" and in 1946 was discontinued.

The only letter that I received this month, having anything at all to do with club activities, was one from our good member down Salem way, Joey Tompkins. It seems as if the summer doldrums is upon us, and there are better things to do than write dull letters to Vintage Radio folks, who may themselves, be on vacation. Ho, Hum!

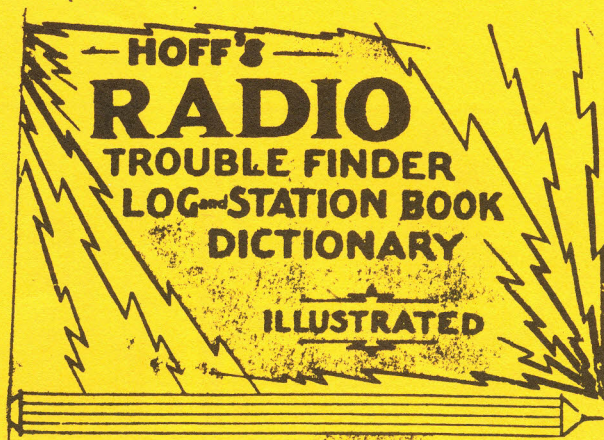
Joe says that he picked up a nice "trouble finder" book at a garage sale the other day. Evidently from the era of do-it-yourself radio. I've enclosed a bit from it's frontpiece on page 7 of this letter. Many of these helpful books were printed in the twenties, but few seem to have found their way into the hands of the vintage collectors. Keep your eyes open for them at yard sales, junk stores and the like. Our library is woefully short on good reference books, so if anyone gets a duplicate book, or one he doesn't care to keep just give it to Chuck Kibler to file.

Joe also indicates that he is well pleased with the results he gets from our Swap-Shop page. I don't see why our Associate members aren't using it more often. Maybe it's because they feel that the Regular members have all the goodies to advertise; or perhaps don't know the Swap-Shop section of the News Letter is free to all members to use, not just regular members.

Some of us will be a bit envious of Joe, for he is taking a short vacation in the wilds of northern Idaho, Lake Pend Oreille to be exact, and says he was guaranteed a good fishing trip; oh well I don't like fish anyway!

Well, good day folks, and remember, keep those cards and letters coming--(?)

- from P. 6 -



Instructions for the Use of Trouble Chart and Remedy Pages



When your set goes bad or is causing you trouble, get your book out; you may know what type of circuit it is you are using in your set, as most fans do. Take your book and turn to the page that has that type of circuit in it; read over the trouble causes. If you are not sure just what the trouble seems like, try out all causes listed for that circuit; you are then sure to meet with success. After looking up your trouble cause page, refer to your Remedy page and follow out the numbers given in the trouble page. This will tell you in the Remedy page by the same number, what your cause is and the remedy of same. If, after you have looked up the Trouble and Remedy pages and you do not know what the parts look like, then refer to the Parts Used in a Radio Set pages; there you will find the same numbers as are listed in the Trouble and Remedy pages. By looking over these Parts pages and numbers you will be able to tell just what your parts look like and you will then have no trouble in locating them in your set. If you want to then know what each part is for and how it works, refer to your pages of Dictionary of Radio Terms; you will there find the name of each part and its use in your radio set.

That home made radio----

Anyone who contemplates a do-it-yourself radio project, should first take a good look at your own capabilities, a good survey of tools at hand, and maybe a glance at a place to work. Next, it is important to have all the necessary components within easy accessibility, so that your project will not have to lie around unfinished for too long. Now, a plan of attack is necessary---whether it is in your noggin or on paper, makes no real difference as long as it is a PLAN. Would suggest that a rank beginner start with a one or two tube, as not much can be learned from a crystal set except the tuning process. Start with the layout of parts, this is very important as it prevents complications later. Most set builders like to have a neat, attractive finished product, as well as one which has good performance characteristics as we all should have pride in the end product. There is no end to the complexity that one can go to, in modern radio circuits, but take it from me the old breadboard layout is the place to start, not printed circuit boards, integrated units, or other sophisticated systems that require too much in the way of lab or factory parts. Perhaps a few of you may have access to some small machine tools, which will give you a chance to try metal chassis and panel construction, but by and large, the old breadboard layout will give most of the neophytes all that they can handle.

Now that you are under way, say with a two tube regenerative set, are you going to make your own coils, or use a set from some vintage source? The latter is to be preferred for a rank newcomer in the art of set building, but if you have a good "how to" book or can copy some already made ones, then fly at it, it's all in fun anyway. Space is too short here to detail all the types and turn ratios and sizes which can be used for the same circuits, not to mention the different circuit types. Are your two tubes compatible as to filament voltage etc., and do you have a few spares in the event one fails for one reason or another? Since you are working with a very low powered re-

(from page 10)

ceiver, an antenna will be necessary to give you any real fun results. 50 feet of most any wire will do if strung around a large room, thru the attic, out to a nearby tree, or whatever. Of course the optimum antenna system for most of the older sets, was more like 100 feet of wire, strung horizontally, fifty or more feet above ground, with a lead-in at one end and a good ground connection to the set. But most of us are too close to broadcast stations to use such an antenna with the relatively poor selectivity that the one or two tube set affords.

Now more about layout-- the wiring carrying the direct current from batteries or whatever, to the tubes and tuning circuitry may be relatively long, but that which carries the weak radio frequency to the grid of the tube (or tubes) must be as short as possible, to prevent losses and stray fields being built up where they are not wanted. Position the terminals of your coils, terminals of the tube socket, terminals of the tuning condenser (if used) in such a manner that most of the above is accomplished. Keeping in mind that neatness is a factor in the end result as well. Pay attention to voltages in the wiring so that short-circuits will not ruin your tube, batteries etc. One can on occasion get a substantial jolt from "B" voltages in larger sets, so build accordingly. In the matter of shielding of coils: it should not be attempted with low gain systems such as most will be building, as any shield will give a small amount of loss to the efficiency of the coil., this can be tolerated if the gain of the circuit is very great, as with multi-tube jobs, and is necessary to prevent stray radio frequency feedback problems. So with a 4 inch coil, the low loss shield would be about the size of a one lb. coffee can, and the selectivity of the coil reduced to a considerable extent, not in the best interest of a hot little two tuber. There is no one "best" way to build any particular set, as all through the circuitry will be found compromises for one reason or another. One might remember in the thirties, that a host of sets were built with identical tube line-up, each claiming some vast superiority over the other.

The Phony Boloney Bit, by Frank Plaisted, Jr.

Since this page is a part of the Vintage Radio group and since we are dedicated to the preservation and restoration of old radios, the editor feels that the content of the column should have a modicum of information, humorous, serious, nostalgic, or other, for all members of the clan. So be it, and so the following Epitaph ensues;

Here's to the page of our Frank,
Whose copy just shrank and shrank.
What with this heat
And the foibles of meat,
The phony Boloney got rank!

** ** * * * * * ** ** * * * * * ** ** * * * * * ** ** * * * * *

Barney Schmill, just out from nite school zoology class, says the following covers the local species of the genus- R. Antiquum:

Bulbus accumulatus----- tube collector.
Vox Magnum Cabinetium-----speaker specialist.
Minutiae Galenae Amatus---crystal set lovers.
Bi-Valvus Trivias-----Radiola ~~III~~ Fans
Omnium Collectorium--Collects anything, e.g.
Joe Tompkins

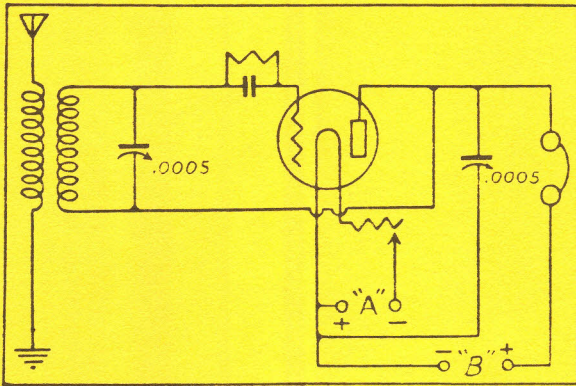
** ** * * * * * ** ** * * * * * ** ** * * * * * ** ** * * * * *

Quick Henry, the Powders

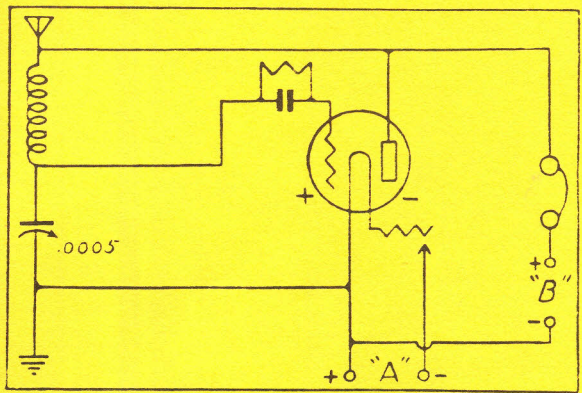
The mal-de-tete, or headache
Can drive us up the wall.
The number who 've never had one
Is almost none at all.

It's nature eludes the brainy ones,
Makes even doctors stop;
And I've got a real live headache,
A Philco, in my shop!

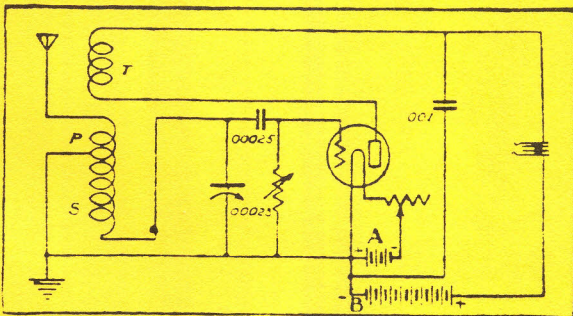
New Ultra-Audion Circuit



Ultra-Audion Circuit



HAYNES CIRCUIT HOOK-UP



One tube circuits, courtesy of
Joe Tompkins

CARTOON CLIPPINGS



"I put a transistor radio in it."

SAT. EVE. POST



RADIO STATIC

True or False

By Glenn

1. Gothic styled cabinets are commonly called Old German.
2. DeForest is noted for his development of the six element Tetrode.
3. Major Armstrong invented the Heaviside Layer.
4. Paul Whiteman directed the famous broadcast band.
5. The modern radio circuit is probably a good old super hetrodyne.

** ** *

Answers for the July Puzzle

All American Mohawk

Tom Thumb

Wells Gardner

Sears Roebuck

Setchell Carlson

Jackson Bell



Don't forget Aug. 12.

** ** *

Sometimes, in a feature or article, in the paper, or other, one runs into a "plug" for something or someone. Well here is a plug for Glenn's nice collection of plugs. That is, he has power plugs of all kinds, species, colors, and shapes, but needs more to complete a very unique facet of the fine art of collecting. If you've got any good specimens of above articles, give him a call or letter to:

Glenn Gonshorowski
4065 Perrydale Rd.
Dallas, Or., 97225
Ph. 503-623-2064

(Editor)

SWAP SHOP

- WANTED: Coils for SW-3 (National), old tubes, early ham equipment, base for AK horn speaker, reproducer for Edison Standard cylinder phonograph.
Dick Howard Ph: 775-6697
- WANTED: 01A fixed resistors, need 7, will pay good price.
R. C. Campbell
2175 S. E. Pine, Hillsboro, Or.
Ph: 648-7331 97123
- WANTED: Schematic of the Falck "no battery" receiver, 1928.
C. R. Kibler
Rt. 2 - Box 694, Aurora, Or.
Ph: 678-5066 97002
- WANTED: Power supply for AK-40 Tin Box; any horn reproducer unit. Looking for small horn speaker.
Joe Tompkins
3796 Hulsey, S. E., Salem, Or.
Ph: 503-362-8071 97302
- FOR SALE: RCA 104 Speaker and Amplifier.
M. F. Leete Ph: 656-6487
- FOR SALE: 1938 Hallicrafter Sky Buddy \$25.00
1940 Hallicrafter S20R \$40.00
Both working and in good condition.
R. C. Campbell
2175 S.E. Pine, Hillsboro, Or.
Ph: 648-7331 97123
- FOR SALE: Philco Cathedral and AK Model 37.
Dick Howard Ph: 775-6697
- FOR SALE: AK Model 40. Don't work but looks OK. Good tubes. \$30.00
Joe Tompkins
3796 Hulsey, S.E., Salem, Or.
Ph: 503-362-8071 97302